

Mr. Stan Eischen  
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Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20530

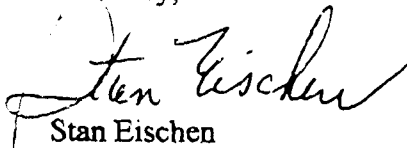
Dear Attorney General Ashcroft,

I support the settlement that has been reached between Microsoft and the Department of Justice. The settlement will bring an end to the costly and contentious court conflict between the two.

Some may criticize the settlement and say it lets Microsoft off too easy. That is simply not the case. Microsoft will agree to many restrictions on its method of doing business. First and foremost among these restrictions is the requirement that Microsoft share its code for Windows with its competitors, thereby allowing them to place their own programs on the Windows system. Additionally, Microsoft will eliminate any possibility of favoritism in its licensing procedures by using a uniform price list when dealing with the top twenty computer business in the nation. These two provisions alone would be enough, but Microsoft has also agreed to forgo any retaliation against companies that sell or promote software that competes with Microsoft's products. Some people may claim that Microsoft will just ignore these requirements, but the settlement will establish a technical review committee to make sure that Microsoft adheres to all of its terms. With all of these restrictions, Microsoft will be severely hampered and its competitors will be aided.

There comes a time in any conflict when the sides sit down and ask themselves if the time and effort would really be worth continuing to fight. Microsoft and the Justice Department have decided that the answer to that question is no. This settlement will end their battle, and no one should block an agreement that is amenable to both of them. Thank you for your time and efforts in Washington.

Sincerely,

  
Stan Eischen